



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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PSA-102

Meteor Shower Viewing At Observatory Park at Turner Farm

Observatory Park at Turner Farm is the place to be if you want to watch the Perseid meteor shower, considered by many to be the most beloved and easiest to see meteor shower of the year for the Northern Hemisphere. From 10 p.m. on Sunday, August 11 through 5 a.m. on Monday, August 12, 2013 come out, weather permitting, and enjoy the show; often as many as 50 to 100 meteors per hour in the dark sky at its peak.

No telescope or binoculars are needed. Meteors can be seen throughout the night, radiating from a point in the constellation Perseus in the northeastern sky. The best viewing occurs in the early morning hours. Simply lie out on a blanket or sit in a lounge chair and look up. This year there is little viewing interference from a waxing crescent moon and in the evening hours the moon will be near the planet Saturn providing a colorful prelude to the late-night meteor extravaganza.

These "shooting stars" are actually bits of debris shed by Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle. Streaking into Earth's upper atmosphere at a relatively fast 37 miles per second, they create superheated plasma along their path. This incandescent gas, which includes vapor from the incinerating particles, creates the momentary streaks of light we see in the sky.

Join with the Annalema Society as they host this special public observation session at this Fairfax County Park Authority site. The Turner Farm is located at the intersection of Georgetown Pike (Route 193) and Springvale Road (Route 674). The park entrance is at 925 Springvale Rd. in Great Falls.

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.